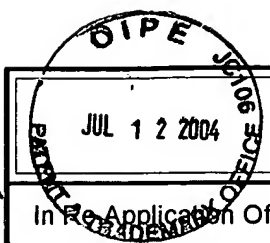


IFW \$



**TRANSMITTAL LETTER**  
**(General - Patent Pending)**

Docket No.  
**DDAP:101bUS**

In Re Application Of: **Duncan et al.**

Application No.	Filing Date	Examiner	Customer No.	Group Art Unit	Confirmation No.
10/642,840	08/18/2003	Eric K. Nicholson	24041	3679	4074

Title: **TUBULAR MEMBER COUPLING DEVICE**

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

Transmitted herewith is:

- (1) Amendment Transmittal Letter (Small Entity)
- (1) Amendment and Request for Reconsideration with Attachment I
- (1) Terminal Disclaimer to Obviate A Double Patenting Rejection
- (1) Check in the Amount of \$55.00 Terminal Disclaimer Fee
- (1) Acknowledgement Postcard

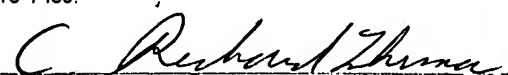
in the above identified application.

- ☐ No additional fee is required.
- ☒ A check in the amount of \$55.00 is attached.
- ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. 50-0822 as described below.
- ☐ Charge the amount of
- ☒ Credit any overpayment.
- ☒ Charge any additional fee required.

  
Signature

Dated: July 9, 2004

**C. Richard Lohrman, Esq.**  
**Registration No. 46,878**  
**Simpson & Simpson, PLLC**  
**5555 Main Street**  
**Williamsville, NY 14221-5406**  
**Telephone No. 716-626-1564**

I certify that this document and fee is being deposited on July 9, 2004 with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.
 Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence
<b>C. Richard Lohrman</b> Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

CRL/KRB

cc:

**AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER (Small Entity)**Applicant(s): **Duane J. Duncan and David W. Mielke, Jr.**

Docket No.

**DDAP:101bUS**

Application No.

**10/642,840**

Filing Date

**08/18/2003**

Examiner

**Eric K. Nicholson**

Customer No.

**24041**

Group Art Unit

**3679**

Confirmation No.

**4074**Invention: **TUBULAR MEMBER COUPLING DEVICE**

JUL 12 2004

**COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:**

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.

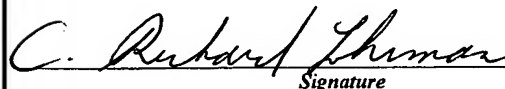
☒ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

The fee has been calculated and is transmitted as shown below.

**CLAIMS AS AMENDED**

	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST # PREV. PAID FOR	NUMBER EXTRA CLAIMS PRESENT	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
TOTAL CLAIMS	29 -	40 =	0 x	\$9.00	\$0.00
INDEP. CLAIMS	2 -	3 =	0 x	\$43.00	\$0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					\$0.00
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT					\$0.00

- ☒ No additional fee is required for amendment.
- ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ A check in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
- ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0822
- ☒ Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16.
- ☒ Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.

  
SignatureDated: **July 9, 2004**

**C. Richard Lohrman, Esq.**  
**Registration No. 46,878**  
**Simpson & Simpson, PLLC**  
**5555 Main Street**  
**Williamsville, NY 14221-5406**  
**Telephone No. 716-626-1564**

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**July 9, 2004** with the U.S. Postal Service as first  
class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 and is addressed to the Commissioner  
for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence**C. Richard Lohrman**

Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

CRL/KRB

CC:



Attorney Docket No. DDAP:101bUS  
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/642,840  
Date: July 9, 2004

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Duane J. Duncan, et al.

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/642,840

For: TUBULAR MEMBER COUPLING DEVICE

Filed: August 18, 2003

Examiner: Eric K. Nicholson

Group Art Unit: 3679

Confirmation No.: 4074

Customer No.: 24041

**Certificate of Mailing by First Class Mail**

I certify that this Amendment and Request for Reconsideration is being deposited on July 9, 2004 with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. §1.8 and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

C. Richard Lohrman, Esq.,  
Regis. No. 46,878

**AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Honorable Sir:

This is a reply to the Office Action dated April 9, 2004 regarding the above-identified patent application. Claims 1-40 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 15-17, 21, 22, 24-30, and 35-37 are rejected. Claims 3, 11-14, 18-20, 23, 31-34, and 38-40 are objected to.

A listing of the **Current Status of the Claims** starts on page 2.

The **Remarks** start on page 8.